

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 189249
ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /016 R

66011

DRAFTED BY:NEA/INS:BEPERCIVAL

APPROVED BY:EUR/NE:THOMPSON NEA:AKORKY

S/S-O KDSCOTT

-----080308 270102Z /64

O 262255Z JUL 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 189249

EXDIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT STOCKHOLM 2844 ACTION SECSTATE JUL 25.

QUOTE: S E C R E T STOCKHOLM 2844

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PEPR, MASS, SW, IN, US

SUBJECT: VIGGEN SALE TO INDIA

1. IN CONVERSATION WITH POL OFF, MFA SOURCE TASKED WITH DRAFTING TALKING POINTS FOR MINISTER LINDER'S AUGUST 2 MEETING WITH THE SECRETARY PROVIDED SOME INSIGHT INTO PAST AND PROJECTED GOS ARGUMENTATION STRATEGY ON VIGGEN CASE. SOURCE BELIEVES GOS MISCALCULATED IN UNDERESTIMATING US READINESS TO REACH DECISION SOLELY ON GROUNDS OF ARMS TRANSFER PRINCIPLES. GOS HERETOFORE STATED ITS CASE TO US ESSENTIALLY IN STRATEGIC TERMS, BELIEVING WASHINGTON'S INTEREST IN PRESERVING STRONG SWEDISH DEFENSE, WITH CONSEQUENT BENEFITS TO NORDIC AND NATO

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 189249

DEFENSES, WOULD BE DETERMINING FACTOR IN THE END.

2. SWEDES ARE NOW PREPARING TO CHANGE GEARS AND MEET ARGUMENTS OF ARMS TRANSFER PRINCIPLES HEAD-ON IN COURSE OF LINDER-VANCE MEETING. LINDER WILL LIKELY ACKNOWLEDGE AGREEMENT WITH AND RESPECT FOR CARTER ADMINISTRATION ARMS TRANSFER POLICIES. INDEED, SWEDES ARGUE, THEIR

OWN ARMS SALES ARE MORE VIGOROUSLY CONTROLLED THAN ARE THOSE OF US. RATHER THAN SEEKING AN EXCEPTION TO US PRINCIPLES WHICH THEY SHARE, SWEDES ARGUE THAT THESE PRINCIPLES DO NOT APPLY GIVEN FACTS OF THE VIGGEN CASE.

3. SWEDISH ARGUMENT IS BASED ON FOLLOWING FACTORS:

- (A) GIVEN INVENTORY OF FIGHTER AIRCRAFT WORLDWIDE, VIGGEN IS NOT CONSIDERED A DPSA.
- (B) GRANTED US REFUSED SALE OF A-7 TO PAKISTAN, FACT REMAINS THAT A-7 IS A MUCH MORE SOPHISTICATED AIRCRAFT THAN VIGGEN.
- (C) PAKISTAN ALREADY HAS SOME 70 MIRAGE III AIRCRAFT. VIGGEN IS IN SAME LEAGUE AS MIRAGE AND CONSEQUENTLY DOES NOT REPRESENT INTRODUCTION OF NEW WEAPONS SYSTEM IN AREA.
- (D) VIGGEN WOULD REPLACE OBSOLETE HAWKER HUNTERS IN INDIAN AIR FORCE BALANCING OUT PAKISTANI MIRAGES. INDIA, AS WORLD'S LARGEST DEMOCRACY, SHOULD BE ENTITLED TO A MODERN AIR FORCE.
- (E) NON-PAPER WHICH ASSTSEC BENSON HANDED TO SWEDISH CHARGE INDICATES US WOULD NOT SELL A-4 IN SUBCONTINENT. THIS WAS CASE PRIOR TO DECISION NOT TO SELL A-7, BUT PAKISTANIS HAVE SINCE BEEN GIVEN LEAVE TO PURCHASE A-4, SWEDES BELIEVE.
- (F) TECHNOLOGY INHERENT IN US ENGINE IS WELL-KNOWN TO INDIANS, SINCE AIR INDIA PLANES ARE EQUIPPED WITH SAME PRATT AND WHITNEY ENGINE AS VIGGEN. AIR INDIA IN FACT MAINTAINS FULL SERVICING FACILITIES FOR THIS ENGINE. GOS IS READY TO SUB-SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 189249

STITUTE NON-US PARTS FOR ALL US-MADE COMPONENTS ON VIGGEN OTHER THAN ENGINE.

4. COMMENT: AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED, LINDER'S RECENT TRIP TO DELHI PUT RENEWED VIGOR INTO SWEDEN'S ATTEMPT TO SECURE US APPROVAL FOR VIGGEN SALE. LINDER WAS TOLD THAT THE INDIAN SUB-CABINET COMMITTEE STUDYING THE THREE ALTERNATIVE AIRCRAFT RATED VIGGEN NUMBER ONE IN TECHNICAL TERMS. HE WAS TOLD ALSO THAT DEFENSE MINISTRY PERSONNEL PREFERRED THE VIGGEN. AND HE HEARD FROM NO LESS A PERSONAGE THAN PRIME MINISTER DESAI THAT VIGGEN WAS A STRONG COMPETITOR IF US APPROVAL WERE FORTHCOMING.

5. THE GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN ASSURED OF OPPOSITION SOCIAL DEMOCRAT INTEREST AND SUPPORT AS LINDER PREPARES FOR HIS SESSION WITH SECRETARY VANCE. ALTHOUGH VIGGEN CASE HAS BEEN KEPT OUT OF PRESS, THERE IS NO QUESTION THAT POLICY MAKING LEVELS OF SWEDISH GOVERNMENT AND ESPECIALLY SENIOR DEFENSE AND FOREIGN POLICY OFFICIALS ARE DEEPLY INTERESTED IN ISSUE AND WILL BE INTENSIVELY FOLLOWING LINDER VISIT TO WASHINGTON.

KENNEDY-MINOTT

UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SALES, MILITARY SALES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE189249
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: NEA/INS:BEPERCIVAL
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780307-0371
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780717/aaaaaohh.tel
Line Count: 119
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: a1eb576c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1876018
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VIGGEN SALE TO INDIA
TAGS: PEPR, MASS, SW, IN, US
To: NEW DELHI
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/a1eb576c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014